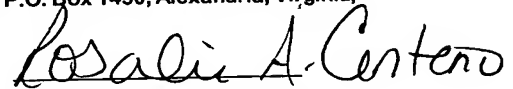


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

In the Application of Georg Roters et al

Ser.No.: Not Yet Known (Based on PCT/EP2003/003531 filed 4 April 2003 and DE 102 37 921.1 filed 14 August 2002)

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THERMALLY TREATING SEMICONDUCTOR WAFERS

Filed on: February 14, 2005

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified National Stage PCT application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.